



Maj Gen Earnest O. Robbins II

Photo by Keith Fried



Thank You and Farewell

Publication of this issue of our magazine coincides with the end of my Air Force career and my tenure as The Air Force Civil Engineer. While I won't go so far as to say the past (almost) 34 years have flown by, I can honestly say they've gone faster than I, or anyone, could imagine. When I first came on active duty as a second lieutenant at Wright-Patterson AFB in 1969, I could never have dreamed how my life and my career would play out. At that point in time, such a dream would have been more correctly categorized as fantasy.

But now here I am, ready, and in fact eager, to make the move onto the "USAF Retired" list. My greatest regret is that I have never been able to personally thank all the tens of thousands of officers, NCOs, airmen and civilians who've worked so hard to ensure we Civil Engineers always come through for our Air Force. No matter how tough the job, how short-handed we are, or how bad the funding situation has been, we deliver!

As a result of our efforts, commanders have been able to go about "Job One" — projecting airpower whenever and wherever needed in our nation's interest. Meanwhile, we have made Air Force installations the absolute best in the Department of Defense in terms of quality of life for our people, functionality for the workforce and appearance. Our fire protection professionals, EOD specialists and readiness experts are absolutely world class and provide unmatched safety and emergency response capabilities for our people wherever the Air Force operates.

While all my years in blue have been interesting and exciting, I must categorize these past four years as extraordinary, not just for me, but for our Air Force in general and for Civil Engineers in particular. Despite incredible stresses on the personal and professional lives of our people as we've spread our "footprint" across the globe, we've continued with the same dedication, perseverance and can-do attitude I first saw way back in 1969. My pride in our career field is based not on the breadth and depth of the programs we run or on the size of the budgets we manage, but on the quality of the products and services we deliver and, most importantly, on the talent and enthusiasm of those within our Civil Engineering family. Because I'm confident in the officers, NCOs, airmen and civilians serving in Civil Engineer squadrons and on headquarters staffs at every level, I have no doubt this tradition of commitment to excellence and selfless service will continue long after I'm gone.

I wish I could look each one of you in the eye, shake your hand and say thank you, but that's impossible. So please accept this as my "Thanks" and sincerest wish for your safety and well-being as you continue to be essential members of the world's greatest Air and Space Force.

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